

STANDARDS FOR SOCIAL BEHAVIOURS

Student Parties / Alcohol / Prohibitive Substances

1. Introduction

The following guidelines are provided to assist parents with the educational development of their children, our students.

Like you, we are anxious to help young people to strive towards a purposeful, happy and fulfilling maturity, and we seek your support in providing reasonable supervision and control of their social activities.

It should be noted that College approved functions are notified to parents through the Calendar, Newsletter or a specific Information Circular.

2. Parties

The pressures on young people from their peers to attend a party can be considerable. The resultant pressure on parents to give permission for a son or daughter to attend may lead to some misunderstanding about the organisation for the function or even in some cases, some misrepresentation.

If young people are to attend parties, we believe that they are best held in their own homes. Hosting a party enables adolescents to learn important social skills; skills which are not likely to be acquired in mass gatherings of uninvited youths. We urge you to permit your sons and daughters only to attend gatherings to which they have been formally and properly invited.

TIMING (Start and Finish Time)

The party should have a stated start and finish time. For Third Year Senior School students, midnight would be an appropriate outside limit as a finish time. For younger students, the finish time should be appropriately earlier. Parties should not be held midweek during term time.

3. Alcohol

Adults have the right and the responsibility to deny the use of alcohol by adolescents at parties held in their own homes. The use of alcohol by young people in groups of their peers does not lead to positive and mature behaviour, and special risks arise when motor vehicles are involved. Students should understand that if they come with alcohol, or after drinking alcohol, their invitation will be rescinded and their parents will be informed by telephone.

4. Movies/Videos

The organising parents need to supervise any video which may be used at a party or function. "R" rated videos shown to groups of minors may even constitute a breach of law and should not be condoned.

5. Supervision

In our view, parental supervision and the presence of adults in sufficient numbers at parties organised for school-aged young people are essential; as is parent contact with hosts to confirm invitations when young people are invited to parties in someone else's home. Written invitations to the party, rather than verbal invitations, are helpful to parents. Arrangements for transport should be clear. Generally parents should arrange a time to pick up their son or daughter. It is not advisable for students to find their own way to and from a party nor is it advisable for groups to go in a student's car.

It is acceptable for parents dropping off their son or daughter to call in, say hello to the organising parent and mention the pick-up arrangements. It is also acceptable to ring the organising parent prior to the party to ascertain details or even offer assistance.

6. Overview

The positive values of a social function for young people are apparent. Such functions give young people the opportunity to explore and develop relationships. They give them the opportunity to develop in one context, social graces and increased maturity. They help develop a positive self-image and a better understanding of others.

Your interest and involvement in your sons' and daughters' social activities are an integral part of their education. We hope that school and family can support each other in the best interests of our young people.

7. Prohibited substances (drugs)

As parents and students are aware, prohibited substances (drugs) are illegal and potentially very dangerous for a person's good social and emotional development. The use of prohibited substances (drugs) clearly has the potential to seriously and adversely affect a person's good health and well-being.

The serious consequences (health, social, emotional) of the mis-use of drugs and the use of prohibited substances are well known in the community and are covered specifically in the College curriculum on a number of occasions. Parents are encouraged to discuss these matters with your children to provide the care and advice best given in the home.

- It should be noted that any student involved with bringing prohibited substances (drugs) to our College will be requested to seek a place in another school or will be liable for the ultimate sanction of our College, namely exclusion. Students having any involvement with drugs on our College site, or to the detriment of our College community, are also liable for the same abovementioned action.

8. Conclusion

This pastoral document is provided to assist parents in discussions with your children and to consider appropriate guidelines for your children.

The essential purpose of this document is to assist parents and to offer encouragement and community support on various social matters of real importance to our young people. The ideas expressed are a summary of the guidelines and standards which we feel would benefit our students, your children.